

What is claimed is:

1. A test strip comprising a magnetically attractive material.
- 5 2. The test strip of claim 1, wherein the magnetically attractive material is present in the test strip in an amount and at one or more locations upon the test strip such that the test strip moves or adopts a specific spatial orientation or alignment when exposed to a magnetic field.
- 10 3. The test strip of claim 1, wherein:
the test strip is substantially flat and has a rectangular shape such that the test strip possesses two short edges of a first length and two long edges of a second length, the second length being longer than the first length; and
the magnetically attractive material is present in a zone on the test
15 strip that is located such that the distance from the zone to one of the two short edges is shorter than the distance from the zone to the other of the two short edges.
- 20 4. The test strip of claim 1, wherein the magnetically attractive material is a tape affixed to the test strip, wherein the tape comprises iron.
5. A test kit comprising the test strip of claim 1.
- 25 6. A plurality of test strips comprising:
a first test strip that is the test strip of claim 1; and
a second test strip that comprises no magnetically attractive material or comprises a sufficiently less magnetically attractive material or a sufficiently smaller amount of magnetically attractive material than the first test strip such that:

the second test strip will not respond to a magnetic field to which the first test strip will move, align, or orient in response thereto, or

the second test strip will exhibit a response to a magnetic field that differs from the response of the first test strip thereto.

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7. A method of sorting the plurality of test strips of claim 6, comprising:

applying a magnetic field to the plurality of test strips, and

10 separating the first test strip from the second test strip by use of the difference in the responses of the first test strip and the second test strip to the magnetic field.

8. The method of Claim 7, wherein the difference in the responses of the first test strip and the second test strip to the specific magnetic field comprises
15 movement of the first test strip in response to the specific magnetic field and less movement or no movement of the second test strip in response to the specific magnetic field.

9. A method of making the test strip of claim 1, comprising the
20 following steps, in no particular order:

a) preparing the test strip from one or more components, and

b) incorporating the magnetically attractive material into the test strip.

25 10. The method of claim 9 wherein the magnetically attractive material is a tape comprising iron and (b) comprises affixing the tape to the cards.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein step a) comprises:
assembling cards from one or more components, and

dividing the cards into test strips.

12. The method of claim 9, wherein step b) occurs during step a).

5 13. The method of claim 12, wherein step a) comprises:
assembling cards from one or more components, and
dividing the cards into test strips.

10 14. The method of claim 12, wherein the method further comprises
removing portions of the magnetically attractive material from the card prior to
dividing the cards into test strips such that some of the test strips that result from
the dividing do not comprise magnetically attractive material.

15 15. The method of claim 9 wherein the magnetically attractive material
is a tape comprising iron and (b) comprises affixing the tape to the cards.

 16. A method of aligning, moving, immobilizing, or orienting one or
more test strips, wherein:
 the one or more test strips are the test strip of claim 1, and
20 aligning, moving, immobilizing, or orienting the one or more test
strips comprises exposing the test strips to a magnetic field.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein:

the one or more test strips are substantially flat and have a rectangular shape such that the test strips possess two short edges of a first length and two long edges of a second length, the second length being longer than the first length; and

the magnetically attractive material is present in a zone that is located on the one or more test strips such that the distance from the zone to one of the two short edges is shorter than the distance from the zone to the other of the two short edges.

18. A method of counting test strips wherein the test strips are the test strip of claim 1 and the method comprises:

applying a magnetic field to the test strips under such conditions as to cause the strips to move; and

counting the test strips as they move in response to the magnetic field.

19. The method of claim 19, wherein:

a) the test strips are located in a container prior to moving;

b) the strips exit the container when they move in response to the magnetic field; and

c) counting the test strips as they move in response to the magnetic field comprises monitoring changes in the gross weight of the container as the strips exit the container.

20. The method of claim 18, wherein:
- a) the test strips are deposited into a container after the test strips move in response to the magnetic field;
 - b) counting the test strips as they move in response to the
- 5 magnetic field comprises monitoring changes in the gross weight of the container as the strips exit the container.